

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1–9. (Canceled)

10. (Withdrawn) Process for the generation of hydrogen by self-sustaining combustion of a solid composition comprising an alkali metal borohydride or alkaline earth metal borohydride and strontium nitrate $\text{Sr}(\text{NO}_3)_2$, characterized in that:

a pulverulent or granular homogeneous solid composition comprising an alkali metal borohydride or alkaline earth metal borohydride and strontium nitrate $\text{Sr}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ is prepared,

this composition is subsequently agglomerated using appropriate means, as to form a compact material,

the compact material is placed in a combustion chamber,

the combustion of the compact material is initiated using an appropriate heat source, which brings about the self-sustaining combustion of the material with generation of hydrogen up to the end of the combustion.

11–12. (Canceled)

13. (New) A pyrotechnic hydrogen generator for a proton exchange membrane fuel cell, comprising:

a solid composition comprising an alkali metal borohydride or alkaline earth metal borohydride and strontium nitrate $\text{Sr}(\text{NO}_3)_2$, wherein combustion of the solid composition generates hydrogen and is self-sustaining.

14. (New) The pyrotechnic hydrogen generator according to Claim 13, wherein the alkaline earth metal borohydride is magnesium borohydride.

15. (New) The pyrotechnic hydrogen generator according to claim 13, wherein the solid composition is devoid of organic matter.

16. (New) The pyrotechnic hydrogen generator according to claim 13, wherein the solid composition consists essentially of an alkali metal borohydride or alkaline earth metal borohydride and of strontium nitrate $\text{Sr}(\text{NO}_3)_2$.

17. (New) The pyrotechnic hydrogen generator according to claim 13, wherein the sum of the contents by weight of alkali metal borohydride or alkaline earth metal borohydride and of strontium nitrate $\text{Sr}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ in the solid composition is equal to or greater than 90%.

18. (New) The pyrotechnic hydrogen generator according to claim 13, wherein the alkali metal borohydride is chosen from the group consisting of lithium borohydride, sodium borohydride, and mixtures thereof.

19. (New) The pyrotechnic hydrogen generator according to claim 13, wherein the weight ratio of alkali metal borohydride or alkaline earth metal borohydride to strontium nitrate is between 1:1 and 10:1.

20. (New) The pyrotechnic hydrogen generator according to claim 13, wherein the solid composition is in a compact form.

21. (New) The pyrotechnic hydrogen generator according to claim 20, wherein the compact form of the solid composition is a pellet or a grain.

22. (New) A proton exchange membrane fuel cell using hydrogen as a fuel, comprising:

at least one electrochemical cell comprising an anode compartment operably connected to the pyrotechnic hydrogen generator according to claim 13.

23. (New) The proton exchange membrane fuel cell according to claim 22, wherein the alkaline earth metal borohydride is magnesium borohydride.

24. (New) The proton exchange membrane fuel cell according to claim 22, wherein the solid composition is devoid of organic matter.

25. (New) The proton exchange membrane fuel cell according to claim 22, wherein the solid composition consists essentially of an alkali metal borohydride or alkaline earth metal borohydride and of strontium nitrate $\text{Sr}(\text{NO}_3)_2$.

26. (New) The proton exchange membrane fuel cell according to claim 22, wherein the sum of the contents by weight of alkali metal borohydride or alkaline earth metal borohydride and of strontium nitrate $\text{Sr}(\text{NO}_3)_2$ in the solid composition is equal to or greater than 90%.

27. (New) The proton exchange membrane fuel cell according to claim 22, wherein the alkali metal borohydride is chosen from the group consisting of lithium borohydride, sodium borohydride, and mixtures thereof.

28. (New) The proton exchange membrane fuel cell according to claim 22, wherein the weight ratio of alkali metal borohydride or alkaline earth metal borohydride to strontium nitrate is between 1:1 and 10:1.

29. (New) The proton exchange membrane fuel cell according to claim 22, wherein the solid composition is in a compact form.

30. (New) The proton exchange membrane fuel cell according to claim 29, wherein the compact form of the solid composition is a pellet or a grain.